

REMARKS

Claims 47-114 are now pending in the application. Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. These amendments are not narrowing amendments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the personal interview conducted on November 8, 2006. During the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed possible claim amendments to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

DRAWINGS

The drawings stand objected to for certain informalities. In particular, the drawings are objected to "because there is no illustration of a common source of a control signal" as claim 47 recites. Applicants amended claim 47 to recite "(i) at least one first input in communication with a common control voltage, (ii) a second input in communication with a control signal, and (iii) an output." For example, as shown in an exemplary embodiment in FIG. 2, a pair of transistors 35 and 37 form an amplifier cell. Each of the transistors 35 and 37 receive control voltages 47 and 49, respectively.

As shown in FIG. 4, each of the amplifier cells (i.e. amplifiers) 61, 63, and 65 includes an arrangement as shown in FIG. 2. For example, "a plurality of amplifiers similar to the amplifier of FIG. 2 are assembled in parallel, as illustrated in FIG. 4, between the differential inputs 47, 49 and the outputs 57, 59." (Column 2, Line 67

through Column 3, Line 3 of U.S. Pat. No. 5,805,006). In other words, the amplifiers 61, 63, and 65 are the plurality of amplifier cells recited in claim 47. Each of the amplifiers 61, 63, and 65 includes first inputs in communication with control voltages 47 and 49 (i.e. the input of each of the plurality of amplifier cells is in communication with the inputs of other ones of the plurality of amplifier cells as claim 47 recites). Similarly, outputs of each of the plurality of amplifier cells are in communication with outputs of other ones of the plurality of amplifier cells (e.g. the outputs connected in common to terminals 57 and 59).

The drawings are also objected to because “the limitation set forth in the claims regarding selective enabling/disabling of the plural amplifier cells is not seen.” Applicants respectfully note that each of the plurality of amplifier cells includes transistors 35 and 37 as shown in FIG. 2. Each of the plurality of amplifier cells 61, 63, and 65 can be enabled and/or disabled via a control signal applied the transistors 35 and 37. (See Column 3, Lines 6-9).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 47-114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner notes that “there are two different sets of control signals in applicant’s invention.” As described above with respect to the objections to the drawings, claim 47 recites a plurality of amplifier cells arranged in parallel. Only FIG. 4 of Applicants’ invention illustrates a plurality of amplifier cells (amplifiers 61, 63, and 65) arranged in parallel. For example, FIG. 2 illustrates a single amplifier. Each of the

amplifiers 61, 63, and 65 includes an amplifier structure similar to FIG. 2. As such, the common control voltage that is in communication with the first inputs of the amplifier cells is either one of the control voltages 47 and 49, which are the inputs to the amplifiers 61, 63, and 65 shown in FIG. 4. Either of the control voltages 47 and 49 are common inputs to each of the amplifiers 61, 63, and 65.

The control signal in communication with second inputs of each of the amplifier cells (e.g. that selectively enables and disables) corresponds to the control signal applied to the transistors 35 and 37 via the current source 45. As described with respect to FIG. 4, “[e]ach of the amplifiers may be selectively controlled, for example, via a controllable current source 45 that conducts the currents from the commonly connected sources in each amplifier.” (See Column 3, Lines 3-6).

With respect to claim 47, the subject matter is described in the specification (e.g. in view of FIG. 4 and the corresponding description) in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention and the corresponding description. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 47, as well as its dependent claims, are enabled for at least the above reasons. The remaining claims are enabled for at least similar reasons.

Claims 47-114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner alleges that the recitation of a “common source of a control signal is indefinite. Applicants amended claim 47 to clarify that each of the plurality of amplifier cells includes “(i) at least one first input in communication with a common control

voltage” (e.g. either of the control voltages commonly applied to the amplifiers 61, 63, and 65 via terminals 47 and 49) and “(ii) a second input in communication with a control signal” (e.g. the control signal applied to each of the transistors 35 and 37 via the controllable current source 45).

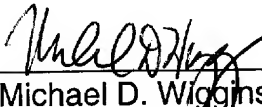
Applicants respectfully submit that claim 47 is now definite for at least the above reasons. The remaining claims are definite for at least similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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